

TO: County Agriculture Development Board Administrators  
Municipal Planning Incentive Grant Coordinators  
Nonprofit Organizations  
State Board of Agriculture Members  
New Jersey Farm Bureau

FROM: Susan E. Craft ,  
Executive Director

DATE: August 26, 2010

SUBJECT: Farmland Preservation Program Funding Allocations for FY2011

As you know, the administration indicated its support for the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) to accept and process applications associated with the new 2009 bond funding in order to keep the Farmland Preservation Program moving forward.

At its July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the SADC established funding allocations for FY2011 as reflected in the attached spreadsheet. In total, \$73 million is proposed to be used from the funds approved in the November 2009 referendum, combined with another \$9.2 million from canceled projects and \$6.3 million in SADC Fee Simple revenues, for a total FY2011 request of \$88.5 million.

**County and Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) Programs**

Under the County PIG program, the SADC allocated a total of \$39 million, which includes \$1.5 million in “Base Grant” funds for each county that demonstrated a funding need for FY2011. The SADC also established a \$15 million Competitive Grant Fund, with a \$3 million cap in competitive funds per county. This will result in a potential maximum of \$4.5 million per county under the program (\$1.5 million base grant and up to \$3 million in competitive funds).

Under the Municipal PIG Program, the SADC allocated \$750,000 for each new municipal PIG and an additional \$500,000 for pre-existing municipal PIGs.



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The SADC will accept County and Municipal PIG individual preservation applications, and will process them through Green Light and Final approval, which will be contingent upon funding being available.

We encourage all counties and municipalities participating in the PIG programs to submit individual applications and work with SADC staff in order to keep moving ahead with preservation projects.

#### **Nonprofit Program**

In response to increased program activity and demand this year, the SADC allocated \$8.2 million – the largest amount ever for a single round of the Nonprofit Program. A Notice of Availability of Grant Funds and Application Deadline will be published in the New Jersey Register on September 20. Individual applications for specific farms must be submitted to the SADC by 5 p.m. on December 20, 2010. The SADC anticipates making a determination of which projects will receive funding by April 1, 2011. Additional information about the application process will be forwarded to nonprofits shortly.

#### **State Acquisition Program**

The SADC has allocated just over \$8 million for its FY2011 State Acquisition Program, and continues to accept applications for consideration year round. Applications will be processed according to available funding and staff resources.

Please remember that the closings associated with FY2011 funds cannot occur until such time as funding is appropriated and made available by the Department of Treasury. At this point, we have no specific estimate of when funding actually will be made available.

We also ask all municipalities, counties and nonprofits to finalize any outstanding projects slated for closing in a timely manner, in order to expend any outstanding funds currently encumbered.

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Please refer to the SADC's website <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/news/hottopics/> for more detailed information regarding FY2011 funding, including spreadsheets for County and Municipal PIG funding as of July 22, 2010.

I will continue to keep you informed of funding developments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.